Education Concerns Regarding the "Gay Rights" Issue

Background

Educators in the United States have played a critical role in protecting and expanding civil rights for qualified minorities. As a result, Americans of diverse ethnic origin now enjoy a greater level of educational opportunity than ever before. In turn, both educators and students benefit from the dynamics of ethnic diversity on campus and in the classroom.

However, a new definition of "minority" has crept into the civil rights arena during the last two decades. Seven states and more than 90 cities, counties and municipalities in America now prohibit discrimination based on "sexual orientation." By so doing, these government entities grant protected class status to a group of individuals whose identity is derived solely from their sexual behavior or desires — primarily homosexuals. "Gay rights" laws, which grant extraordinary status to what amounts to, not a true ethnic minority, but a **special interest group**, may adversely affect education in several ways.

Promotion In Educational Institutions Of Homosexuality and "Political Correctness"

* Growing numbers of public school curricula and courses are being introduced, under the guise of "AIDS education" or "alternative lifestyles studies." These curricula and courses clearly depict homosexuality as a valid, healthy and acceptable lifestyle, and inundate children with graphic details of homosexual behavior and instruction on "safe sex" practices, including condom use.

* While courses of this nature are welcomed in the schools, alternative points of views are discouraged, even penalized. In 1992, Bruce Skewes, a Roxbury Township, New Jersey, high school English teacher was forced to retire from the school system or face tenure charges simply for giving out printed information about the medical dangers of homosexual behavior. Skewes had been given permission by school administrators to address an ethics class a week after a homosexual man had given the class a "politically correct" presentation of homosexuality. The class's teacher claimed she was trying to "reduce the homophobia" of her students.

* On August 30, 1991, the Office of Student Activities of Denver's Metropolitan State College issued a directive to all 90 campus clubs, requiring that membership in **all clubs**, including religious and military organizations, be opened to homosexuals. Failure to comply would result in loss of on-campus recognition and loss of all club privileges.

* Homosexual instructors of a 1991 Denver taxpayer-subsidized continuing education course presented teachers taking the course with a several-hundred-page guide entitled "Gay and Lesbian Youth Tools for Educators." The introductory article contained these statements: "There is no biblical sex ethic.

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The Bible knows only a love ethic, which is constantly being brought to bear on whatever sexual mores are dominant in a given country, culture or period." In addition to aggressively promoting acceptance of homosexuality, bisexuality, lesbianism and condom use (with graphic descriptions of these behaviors and techniques), this teachers' guide suggested that resources be distributed to children including pamphlets ("I Think I Might Be Gay," etc.) containing telephone numbers of homosexual support groups for children to contact.

"Gay rights" laws would make promotion of homosexual special interests, including the "gay rights" political agenda, mandatory in Colorado schools, make criticism of homosexuality a "hate crime" and instruct children in homosexual behavior — despite evidence that a teenager practicing homosexual behavior has a one in four chance of contracting AIDS within five years.

Promotion of Homosexuality Through Books and Media Aimed at Children

* Recently, the nation's largest publisher of books designed for private schools accepted the National Education Association's endorsement of homosexuality as a valid "alternative lifestyle." Two recently-issued books with NEA approval for kindergartners and first-graders are entitled "Heather Has Two Mommies" and "Gloria Goes to the Gay Pride Parade."

* Linda Gottlieb, executive producer of ABC-TV's "One Life to Live" daytime serial stated in a recent interview that she plans to introduce a homosexual teenage character "coming out" on the show during the summer months, **so a maximum number of young people can be exposed to this event**.

Powerful "gay" special interests are at work to "desensitize" the American public, including children, toward homosexuality. None of these "politically correct" depictions of homosexuality reveal the dangers to children presented by exposure to some homosexuals...

Homosexuals and the Young

* Psychological studies and surveys by homosexuals of "gay" behavior reveal that 73% of homosexuals admit to having had sex with boys 16-19 years of age or younger... More than 50% of adult homosexuals had been seduced by older homosexuals before age 14... About 31% of children molested below the age of 13 are homosexually molested...

* Though homosexual activists are now trying to draw a distinction between themselves and pedophiliacs, studies indicate that 30% of male child molesters admit to also engaging in homosexual acts with adults, and 91% of molesters of non-familial boys admit to no lifetime contact other than homosexual.

* A recent San Francisco gay tabloid editorial stated that "the love between men and boys is at the foundation of homosexuality." One leader of both a national "man-boy love" organization and the New York "gay rights" movement has criticized the "gay rights" movement for "sweeping pedophilia under the rug" in order to "sanitize the image of homosexuality to facilitate its entrance into the social mainstream."

* A nationwide investigation of child molestation in the Boy Scouts of America reported 1,151 complaints of abuse by at least 416 Scout leaders in 19 years, in all 50 states. This makes, the study concluded, sex abuse more common in Scouting than accidental death and serious injury. The Boy Scouts have spent literally millions of dollars fighting litigation related to this abuse.

Heterosexuals commit a majority of child molestations. But homosexuals, though only 2%

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of the population according to the most reliable studies, commit between 1/4 and 1/3 of molestations—a remarkable percentage considering their small numbers. Surely these facts lend no support to homosexuality's being promoted among the young as a "valid, alternative lifestyle."

Affirmative Action for Homosexuals in Education

* While some "gay rights" laws explicitly or by clear provision include affirmative action for homosexuals (e.g. the proposed Colorado Springs "Human Rights" ordinance, and Boulder, Colorado's "gay rights" ordinance), implicit obligations arise from all "gay rights" laws when these are coupled with other state and federal anti-discrimination statutes.

Granting sexual orientation special protected class status raises questions of affirmative action obligations for employers in the field of education.

Employee Morale

* According to a recent Time/CNN poll, a majority of Americans still hold negative opinions of homosexuality. Most employees would find it intolerable to be an object of sexual attraction for a member of the same sex.

Sexual tension in the school workplace lowers morale, yet would be legally sheltered from remedy by "gay rights" laws.

Health Considerations

* Because of their high degree of sexual promiscuity, homosexuals represent a serious health concern for educational employers and students. According to numerous studies, the average homosexual has between 20-106 different sexual partners each year. As a result, homosexuals have exceptionally high rates of gonorrhea, syphilis, hepatitis A and B, cytomegalovirus, amoebic bowel disease, herpes and AIDS. New strains of tuberculosis, largely incubated in the bodies of AIDS sufferers, and transmittable through coughs or sneezing, are now virtually incurable.

* Various studies estimate the national average for AIDS-related health care costs from infection to death as between $85,333 and $250,000. According to the Journal of Certified Life Insurance Underwriters, March 1992, the estimated national cost of health insurance for AIDS cases by 1995 will be $17 billion.

* Life insurance mortality tables estimate that, out of a standard group of 1,000 persons aged 34 who are in good health, 7.5 will die over the next seven years from any causes. From a similar group who are infected with the AIDS virus, 200 deaths would be expected — assuming only 20% go on to develop the disease. That is a mortality rate **26 times higher** than the average.

* According to a 1988 Journal of the American Medical Association study, the new HIV infection rate among women whose sexual partners were infected with HIV and regularly used condoms was 14% per year, the same as the pregnancy rate for birth control. A 14% failure rate is 1 failure in 7 — like playing Russian roulette with a seven-shot pistol.

School promotion of homosexuality and condom use represent a clear threat to the health of students. And employee absenteeism/retraining alone will add considerably to schools' costs of accomplishing educational objectives.

(Paid for by Colorado for Family Values. Will Perkins, Executive Board Chairman, Kevin Tebedo, Director.)